

David Ricardo

Quotes

*Wages, Fall, Commodity, May, Country, Variation, Land, Class, Gold, Increase,
Demand, Wisdom, Profit, Wealth, Business, Might, Corn, Differences,
Principles, Powerful*

The farmer and manufacturer can no more live without profit than the labourer without wages.

~David Ricardo

Nothing contributes so much to the prosperity and happiness of a country as high profits.

~David Ricardo

There can be no rise in the value of labour without a fall of profits.

~David Ricardo

There is no way of keeping profits up but by keeping wages down.

~David Ricardo

Neither a state nor a bank ever have had unrestricted power of issuing paper money without abusing that power.

~David Ricardo

If a tax on malt would raise the price of beer, a tax on bread must raise the price of bread.

~David Ricardo

Profits are not made by differential cleverness, but by differential stupidity.

~David Ricardo

Money is neither a material to work upon nor a tool to work with.

~David Ricardo

The exchangeable value of all commodities rises as the difficulties of their production increase.

~David Ricardo

There can be no greater error than in supposing that capital is

increased by non-consumption.

~David Ricardo

Like all other contracts, wages should be left to the fair and free competition of the market, and should never be controlled by the interference of the legislature.

~David Ricardo

Labour, like all other things which are purchased and sold... has its natural and its market price.

~David Ricardo

The interest of the landlord is always opposed to the interests of every other class in the community.

~David Ricardo

Whether a bank lent one million, ten million, or a hundred millions, they would not permanently alter the market rate of interest; they would alter only the value of the money they issued.

~David Ricardo

Again two manufacturers may employ the same amount of fixed, and the same amount of circulating capital; but the durability of their fixed capitals may be very unequal.

~David Ricardo

Taxation under every form presents but a choice of evils.

~David Ricardo

If I discover a manure which will enable me to make a piece of land produce 20 per cent more corn, I may withdraw at least a portion of my capital from the most unproductive part of my farm.

~David Ricardo

In the same manner if any nation wasted part of its wealth, or lost part of its trade, it could not retain the same quantity of circulating medium which it before possessed.

~David Ricardo

The price of corn will naturally rise with the difficulty of producing the last portions of it.

~David Ricardo

Rent is the portion of the earth, which is paid to the landlord for the user of the original and indestructible powers of the soil

~David Ricardo

Every transaction in commerce is an independent transaction.

~David Ricardo

Utility then is not the measure of exchangeable value, although it is absolutely essential to it.

~David Ricardo

Profits might also increase, because improvements might take place in agriculture, or in the implements of husbandry, which would augment the produce with the same cost of production.

~David Ricardo

If English money was of the same value then as before, Hamburg money must have risen in value. But where is the proof of this?

~David Ricardo

I have already expressed my opinion on this subject in treating of rent, and have now only further to add, that rent is a creation of value, as I understand that word, but not a creation of wealth.

~David Ricardo

Gold, on the contrary, though of little use compared with air or water, will exchange for a great quantity of other goods.

~David Ricardo

But it is clear that the price of labour has no necessary connection with the price of food, since it depends entirely on the supply of labourers compared with the demand.

~David Ricardo

The demand for money is regulated entirely by its value, and its value by its quantity.

~David Ricardo

The variation in the value of money, however great, makes no difference in the rate of profits.

~David Ricardo

But a rise in the wages of labour would not equally affect commodities produced with machinery quickly consumed, and commodities produced with machinery slowly consumed.

~David Ricardo

Possessing utility, commodities derive their exchangeable value from two sources: from their scarcity, and from the quantity of labour required to obtain them.

~David Ricardo

For price is everywhere regulated by the return obtained by this last portion of capital, for which no rent whatever is paid.

~David Ricardo

To alter the money value of commodities, by altering the value of money, and yet to raise the same money amount by taxes, is then undoubtedly to increase the burthens of society.

~David Ricardo

The factors left out of the Ricardian equation are falling wages and idle capacity.

~David Ricardo

A BOUNTY on the exportation of corn tends to lower its price to the foreign consumer, but it has no permanent effect on its price in the home market.

~David Ricardo

Whenever the current of money is forcibly stopped, and when money is prevented from settling at its just level, there are no limits to the possible variations of the exchange.

~David Ricardo

Neither machines, nor the commodities made by them, rise in real value, but all commodities made by machines fall, and fall in proportion to their durability.

~David Ricardo

A rise in wages, from an alteration in the value of money, produces a general effect on price, and for that reason it produces no real effect whatever on profits.

~David Ricardo

...I wish that I may never think the smiles of the great and powerful a sufficient inducement to turn aside from the straight path of honesty and the convictions of my own mind.

~David Ricardo

Called an inquiry into the laws which determine the division of the produce.

~David Ricardo

The wheat bought by a farmer to sow is comparatively a fixed capital to the wheat purchased by a baker to make into loaves.

~David Ricardo

But a tax on luxuries would no other effect than to raise their price. It would fall wholly on the consumer, and could neither increase wages nor lower profits.

~David Ricardo

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